

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a CCD camera having a lens unit comprising the steps of:

detecting illumination levels in a certain space to be photographed;

generating digital image data corresponding to the detected illumination levels;

dividing the digital image data into plural cell regions;

comparing the detected illumination levels for each cell region to a previously determined standard illumination level; and

switching a photographing mode of a camera to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode by either using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit or not using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit depending on the basis of the comparison result;

wherein the step of switching the photographing mode of the camera comprises the sub-steps of:

counting the number of cell regions having a detected illumination level less than the standard illumination level; and

determining whether the thusly counted number of cell regions is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, in the comparing step, it is determined whether the illumination level of each cell region is higher than the standard illumination level.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the photographing mode of the camera is switched to a nighttime mode in case the number of cell regions having a lower illumination level than the standard illumination level is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the photographing mode of the camera is switched to a daytime mode in case the number of cell regions having lower illumination level than the standard illumination level is less than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a photographing mode of a camera between a daytime mode and a nighttime mode having a lens unit, comprising the steps of:

dividing a photographing area into a plurality of cell regions;  
detecting an illumination level of each cell region; and  
counting the number of cell regions having a detected illumination level less than a standard illumination level;

determining whether the thusly counted number of cell regions is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions; and

switching the photographing mode of the camera between a daytime mode and a nighttime mode by either using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit or not using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit on the basis of determining whether the detected illumination level of each cell region is higher than a previously determined standard illumination level.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising switching the photographing mode of the camera on the basis of determining whether the illumination level of each cell region is higher than a previously determined standard illumination level.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the photographing mode of the camera is switched on the basis of comparing the detected illumination levels and the previously determined standard illumination level.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising switching the photographing mode of the camera into a nighttime mode in case the number of cell regions having a lower illumination level than the previously determined standard illumination level is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising switching the photographing mode of the camera into a daytime mode in case the number of cell regions having lower illumination level than a previously stored standard illumination is less than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a photographing mode of a camera ~~to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode and~~ having a lens unit, comprising the steps of:

dividing a photographing area into a plurality of cell regions and detecting an illumination level of each cell region;

determining whether the detected illumination level of each cell region is greater than a previously determined standard illumination level;

counting the number of the cell regions having a lower illumination level than the standard illumination level;

determining whether the counted number is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions; and

switching the photographing mode of the camera ~~to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode~~ by either using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit or not using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit depending on the basis of the determination.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising switching the photographing mode of the camera to a nighttime mode in case the

number of the cell regions having a lower illumination level than the standard illumination level is higher than the certain percentage.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising switching the photographing mode of the camera to a daytime mode in case the number of the cell regions having a lower illumination than the standard illumination is lower than the certain percentage.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a photographing mode of a camera to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode and having a lens unit, comprising the steps of:

dividing a photographing area into a plurality of cell regions and detecting the illumination of each cell region;

determining whether the illumination of each cell region is greater than a previously determined standard illumination value;

counting the number of the cell regions having a lower illumination than the standard illumination value;

determining whether the counted number of cell regions is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions; and

switching the photographing mode of the camera to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode by either using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit

or not using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit depending on the basis of the results of at least one of the determining steps.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the cell regions divide the photographing area at regular intervals.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising uniformly averaging the illumination of the cell regions regardless of the position of the cell regions.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising selecting the nighttime mode in case the counted number is higher than the certain percentage.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the photographing mode comprises a nighttime mode in which the camera does not use an optical low pass filter.

24. (Currently Amended) A CCD camera having a lens unit comprising:

means for detecting illumination levels in a certain space to be photographed;

means for generating digital image data corresponding to the detected illumination levels;

means for dividing the digital image data into plural cell regions;

means for determining the average detected illumination using the digital image data in the plurality of regions;

means for counting the number of cell regions having a detected illumination level less than a standard illumination level;

means for determining whether the thusly counted number of cell regions is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions;

means for comparing the detected illumination levels for each cell region to a previously determined standard illumination level; and

means for switching a photographing mode of a camera to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode by either using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit or not using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit depending on the basis of the comparison result.

25. (Currently Amended) A camera having a daytime photographing mode and a nighttime photographing mode and a lens unit, comprising:

means for dividing a photographing area into a plurality of cell regions;



means for detecting an illumination level of each cell region;

means for counting the number of cell regions having a detected illumination level less than a standard illumination level;

means for determining whether the thusly counted number of cell regions is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions; and

means for switching the photographing mode of the camera on the basis of the detected illumination levels; and

means for switching the photographing mode of the camera to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode by either using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit or not using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit depending on the basis of determining whether the illumination level of each cell region is higher than a previously determined standard illumination level.

26. (Currently Amended) A camera having a daytime photographing mode and a nighttime photographing mode and a lens unit, comprising:

means for dividing a photographing area into a plurality of cell regions and detecting the illumination of each cell region;

means for determining whether the illumination of each cell region is greater than a previously determined standard illumination value;

means for counting the number of the cell regions having a lower illumination than the standard illumination value;

means for determining whether the counted number of cell regions is greater than a certain percentage of the total number of cell regions; and

means for switching the photographing mode of the camera to a daytime mode or a nighttime mode by either using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit or not using an optical low pass filter (OLPF) in the lens unit depending on the basis of the determination.

27. (Previously Presented) The camera of claim 26, wherein the means for switching the photographing mode of the camera on the basis of the determination switches the photographing mode of the camera to the daytime mode to not use the optical low pass filter to photograph the scene if the counted number of cell regions having lower illumination than the standard illumination value is greater than the certain percentage of the total number of cells.

28. (Previously Presented) The camera of claim 26, wherein the means for switching the photographing mode of the camera on the basis of the determination switches the photographing mode of the camera to the nighttime mode to use the optical low pass filter to photograph the scene if the counted number of cell regions having lower illumination than the standard illumination value is less than the certain percentage of the total number of cells.